

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) Use A method of treating or preventing discomfort, unpleasant symptoms, irritation, or pain associated with a tissue, the method comprising contacting the tissue with a pharmaceutical, dermatological or cosmetic composition or a medical device comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a biocompatible polymer corresponding to the following general formula (I)



in which:

A represents a monomer,

X represents a RCOOR' group,

Y represents an O or N-sulphonate group bound to A and corresponding to one of the following formulas - ROSO₃R', -RNSO₃R' in which:

R represents an aliphatic hydrocarbon chain, possibly branched and/or unsaturated and which may contain one or more aromatic rings and R' represents one hydrogen atom or one cation,

a represents the number of monomers,

x represents the rate of substitution of the A monomers by the X groups,

y represents the rate of substitution of the A monomers by Y groups;

~~for preparation of a pharmaceutical, dermatological or cosmetic composition or a medical device intended for the prevention, relief and/or treatment of discomfort, unpleasant symptoms, irritation and/or pain and/or protection of the tissues against the latter.~~

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Use according to The method of claim 1, in which the A monomers, identical or different, are selected among sugars, esters, alcohols, amino acids, nucleotides, nucleic acids or proteins.~~

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Use according to any one of claims 1 or 2, characterised in that a is such that The method of claim 1, wherein the mass of the said polymers of formula (I) is greater than approximately 2000 daltons.~~

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Use according to any one of claims 1 to 3, characterised in that The method of claim 1, wherein x is between approximately 20 and 150% and preferably of the order of 50%.~~

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Use according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised by the fact that The method of claim 1, wherein y is between approximately 30 and 150% and preferably of the order of 100%.~~

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Use according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that The method of claim 1, wherein the radical R is selected from among a linear or branched alkyl, allyl or aryl group.~~

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Use according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the said The method of claim 1, wherein the biocompatible polymer comprises functional chemical groups Z, different from X and Y and capable of bestowing additional biological or physical and chemical properties on the said polymers.~~

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Use according to claim 7, characterised in that The method of claim 7, wherein the rate of substitution of all the A monomers by Z groups represented by "z" is between 0 and 50% and preferably of the order of 30%.~~

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Use according to any one of claims 7 or 8, characterised in that The method of claim 7, wherein the Z group is a substance capable of bestowing on the said polymers improved solubility or lipophilia lipophilicity.~~

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Use according to claim 9, characterised in that The method of claim 9, wherein the Z groups are identical or different and are amino acids, fatty~~

acids, fatty alcohols, ceramides or derivatives of the latter thereof, or furthermore addressing nucleotide sequences.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Use according to any one of claims 7 or 8, characterised by the fact that The method of claim 7, wherein the Z groups are identical or different and are therapeutic agents.~~

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Use according to any of the preceding claims, characterised by the fact that The method of claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutical or dermatological composition or the medical device are is intended to prevent, relieve and/or treat pains and/or itching induced by lesions or irritations in an individual in an area in contact with an outside medium.~~

13. (Currently Amended) ~~Use according to claim 12, characterised in that the said The method of claim 12, wherein the lesions or irritations are selected among skin lesions, corneal lesions, lesions of the eardrum, lesions of the digestive tract, lesions of the respiratory tract such as lesions of the tissues of the airways and lungs and lesions of the urogenital tract.~~

14. (Currently Amended) ~~Use according to any one of claims 1 to 11, characterised in that The method of claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutical or dermatological composition or the medical device are is intended to prevent, relieve and/or treat pains in the tendons and/or cartilages and/or the joints and/or the back and/or the muscles and in general, following impact and/or diffuse pains such as diffuse pains in the abdomen and or in the head such as headaches.~~

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a biocompatible polymer such as defined according to any one of claims 1 to 11 for preparation of a comfort and particularly The method of claim 1, comprising contacting the skin with a cosmetic composition for prevention and relief of skin discomfort and unpleasant symptoms such as tingling, irritation, itching and or pulling and for protection of the tissues such as associated with the skin, cornea and or mucosae.~~

16. (Currently Amended) Use according to any one of claims 1 to 11, characterised in that The method of claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutical or dermatological composition or the medical device is intended to prevent, relieve and/or treat

- the pain and/or pruritus induced by
 - * deep skin burns, particularly deep second degree burns;
 - * scars and cicatricial tissue;
 - * ulcers of the skin and/or the mucosae and/or the cornea;
 - * peripheral and/or degenerative neuropathies;
 - * cold sores;
 - * chapping, particularly chapping of the fingers;
 - * hyperkeratinisation of the skin, psoriasis, eczema or herpes zoster;
 - * a surgical operation;
 - * radiotherapy;
 - * a lesion of the eardrum;
 - * asthma and/or rhinitis and/or bronchial obstruction;
 - * aphthous ulcers and/or sore throats and/or dental pains;
 - * arthroses or arthritis;
- irritation of the mucosae and/or the skin; or
 - chronic diseases characterised by destruction and/or permanent remodelling of the extracellular matrix, such as for example peripheral and/or degenerative neuropathies, psoriasis, eczema, herpes zoster, asthma, bronchitis, rhinitis, arthroses, arthritis and Crohn's disease.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~Use according to any one of claims 1 to 11,~~
~~characterised in that The method of claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutical or dermatological~~
composition or the medical device is intended to promote remodelling of closed scars.